

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011
5:30P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (Absent), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr. (Absent), Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson (Absent), Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Arrived at 5:33p.m.)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator and Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilman Porter

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

Council President Gatling stated that the agenda could not be modified in a Special Session and thus it is approved.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. LEGISLATION:

- None

4. MEETING TOPICS:

- 4.1.1. Trash Collection- Councilwoman Gatling asked if the City Council remembered the proposed refuse contract from Bates. The Council present stated that remembered. Councilwoman Gatling stated that the RFP asked for

contractual services for one (1) year, and Bates is interested in a long term contract.

- Councilman Porter asked Mr. Ashton if he had computed the monies for the trash services. Mr. Ashton stated yes and quoted the amount of the yearly contract. Councilman Porter further stated that one of the companies that responded to the RFP was selected by Capitol Heights.
- Councilman Porter stated that there was a concern with the company ability to handle more than one municipality. They are currently located in Takoma Park, MD.
- Councilman Porter stated that Bates would not enter into a contract with the City in the past.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that when she and Mr. Ashton met with Bates they had contracts dated back to the early 90's. Mr. Ashton stated the contracts were based on the terms that Bates wanted to provide services, and the City would not agree.
- Councilman Porter wanted to know if the refuse rates for other municipality of our size are paying the same rate. Mr. Ashton stated that he did not verify the information, but he is aware of the contract with the City of Alexandria and the prices have declined with them.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that Sussman recommended that we put out another RFP since it has been eighteen (18) months.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that she feels the same on putting out another RFP. We had other companies respond, but we were negotiating with Bates and did not allow the other companies to respond.
- Councilwoman Gatling asked if the council wanted to advertise for another RFP and include the recycle bins.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that the other company contract was lower, but the council was afraid to change services and loose services.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the city has submitted Bates with a contract and they wanted to change the terms.
- Mr. Ashton asked the City Council why would penalize another company by continue to allow the same company with no discounted rates.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated if Bates have not increased their rates in the six (6) years of servicing it is good. Most companies would have increased the rate in the time
- Councilman Porter stated that it is his understanding that the City Attorney has not received all of the paperwork regarding the contract. He feels that the missing paper work needs to be submitted to the City Attorney.

- Councilwoman Gatling read the comments in the e-mail from Bates and the City Attorney. She stated that they did not deviate from the terms. They want a five year contract. Do we want to re advertise for an RFP, but specify the services
- Councilwoman Gatling asked the Council if we wanted to ask for a three (3) year contract at \$18.50 per house hold.
- Councilwoman Gatling will send the e-mail to Sussman.
- 4.1.2. Construction in Council Chambers-
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that the entire council was surprised to see the wall in Chambers.
- She requested that the Clerk include the minutes in the packet where conversation had taken place. The minutes do not reflect the approval of a wall or desk. Councilwoman Gatling stated that we can have the wall removed, if the Council decides.
- Councilman Porter stated that we can use the wall for media services, as the closet is cluttered.
- Councilman Yeargin stated the minutes reflect that he requested a blue print, and did not receive anything.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he spoke with the Attorney regarding the bill for the wall. The attorney told him that we need to pay for the services that were provided.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she feels the wall should be removed
- Councilman Hardy stated that he feels the wall should be removed
- Councilman Porter stated that he feels we can use it for a media room
- Councilman Yeargin stated that it doesn't matter he abstain from the vote.
- Councilman Porter stated we have established that the wall was installed illegally because it wasn't approved. He stated that if it was illegally installed it will need to be removed. He stated that Mr. Ashton could have had the wall removed without the Council involvement.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she would not allow Mr. Ashton to take the responsibility. She would state that she lead the discussion.
- Councilwoman Simms stated let the wall come down.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that the wall to be removed ASAP.
- 4.1.3. Feggans Center-
- Councilwoman Gatling stated the City Council has not had the opportunity to discuss the project. She does not want the Mayor to continue to move forward and the Council has not made any decision.

- Councilwoman Simms stated the Council had never discussed what they wanted to see at the Feggans Center. She was under the impression that the Mayor was going to assist with the renovations of the Feggans Center.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she informed Mr. Ashton that we can only borrow \$3,000,000,000 in accordance to our City Charter.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that this is not her vision and she would never vote to eliminate the park.
- Mr. Ashton stated the State informed that the bond bill can only be changed by Former Senator Exum and Senator Elect Joanne Benson
- Councilman Porter stated that we need to discuss the new findings with Mayor Grant. He feels that this should have been found in the discovery.
- Councilwoman Simms that we have been guilty of not telling the Mayor that we disagree with the plans. She stated the money was to be used for going into the Feggans Center for restoration.
- Councilman Porter stated that he does not disagree with the statement on the purpose, but he does not agree with us not speaking up or disagreeing with the plans. He further stated that there has been a lot of conversation about developing the land on and around the Feggans Center for some time.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she does want to see the city developed. However, she feels that we need to put our future political aspiration aside when making decisions. She stated that the only problem she has is the retail aspect. She does not feel it will draw the clientele.
- Councilman Porter is stating that the dynamic of the area is changing. The Wal-Mart will be put in place with new housing removing the low income housing.
- Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know where they are going with the plans and she sits on the committee. There was not a round table discussion with her colleagues. We must remember that we did not get money to tear down the existing structure.
- Councilman Porter stated that we have seen plans developed for the full site.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that if we are not agreeing to the development of the full site, but agree to restoration of the building.
- Councilman Hardy wanted to know if the structure of the building is sound.
- Councilman Yeargin stated that we will need a study in writing to determine if the building is sound.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she received a telephone call from Mayor Grant last Friday regarding another bond bill for the Public Works building. She

stated to Mayor Grant she do not mind supporting him and lobbying at Annapolis.

- Councilman Yeargin stated that we need to work on our Master Plan in accordance to 2004 grant application signed by Mr. Ashton and the Former City Administrator.
- The City Council decided to have another meeting with the full Council to consider the Feggans Center.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1.1. Cereta Lee, Register of Wills, Will Preparation, City Hall-Council Chambers, Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 10:00a.m.

6.1.2. Crime Prevention Training, Saturday, February 5, 2011 at 9:00a.m., City Hall-Council Chambers

6.1.3. Regular Work Session, Monday, February 7, 2011 at 6:00p.m., City Hall-Council Chambers

6.1.4. Ward II Meeting, Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 12:30p.m.-2:30p.m., Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD

6.1.5. Public Session, Monday, February 14, 2011 at 7:00p.m., City Hall-Council Chambers

6.1.6. Ward I Meeting, Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m., City Hall-Council Chambers

ADJOURN-. The meeting adjourned at 7:01p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham

City Clerk